



# Nether Stowe School

Headteacher: Mr G Langston-Jones  
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## May Half-term Update

Dear parent or carer,

It has been an incredibly busy half-term with so much going on in school. I wanted to provide you with a brief update as well as some important information before we got to half-term.

### Year 11 and Year 13

We are incredibly sad to say farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils today. I have been consistently impressed by their resilience, determination and hard work over recent weeks. They have been through an unprecedented time in their lives, and I have nothing but admiration and pride for what they have achieved, their enduring positivity and success.

We look forward to seeing a great many pupils return to our Sixth Form for our transition and bridging sessions starting after half-term. For those who are moving on to new challenges and adventures, we wish them the very best and look forward to seeing them again to hear about the amazing things they have achieved.

Work and resources, including careers advice, information and guidance for pupils will be available for pupils via the website. I encourage pupils to make use of any of the normal support network in school and they can contact their pastoral head for support if they need to.

### Attendance

Research has shown that poor attendance has a significantly negative effect on achievement.

There is a clear correlation between regular, good, attendance and academic achievement. Regular attendance also ensures that students can take full advantage of all opportunities available as well as having access to high quality teaching and appropriate guidance and support from staff.

Quite simply, if your child misses school they are missing out.

By working together to encourage your child to attend school regularly, arriving to lessons on time, being well equipped and ready to learn, we are preparing them for a brighter future and supporting them to achieve their full potential.

Please remember that if your child absolutely cannot make it into school, you must phone into school on the first day, and every subsequent day, of absence.

### Communication with School

We always welcome an open dialogue with parents and carers; it significantly helps to support students with their progress and development in school. However, schools are busy places and it's very difficult to accommodate a meeting with a parent or carer when this has not been arranged in advance.

Email: [office@netherstowe.com](mailto:office@netherstowe.com) Website: [www.netherstowe.com](http://www.netherstowe.com) Twitter: [@netherstowe](https://twitter.com/netherstowe)



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If you would like to speak to any member of staff in-school, please remember this is by prior appointment only and that requests to meet or speak with a member of staff without an appointment cannot be accommodated.

Please take the opportunity to sign-up to the My Child at School app as, increasingly, key messages will be provided via this medium and please remember to check your emails, the website and social media regularly.

### **Building a New Nether Stowe**

I am sure many of you will have seen the completed extension at the front of school, which looks fantastic. It is a brilliant addition to the school for our pupils, with outstanding facilities for learning. We will be holding a formal opening ceremony after half-term.

Please take a look at our Instagram page to see pictures of the interior of our exciting new sport hall, which is nearing completion at the end of June: it will be a terrific resource for our students and the local community: we can't wait to use it.

We are also looking forward to a range of catering improvements for September as well as a number of developments around the school site to welcome pupils back at the start of the next school year. I want our students to see that the school is transforming and putting their experience at the heart of everything we do.

Please note that a new, permanent, vehicle barrier will be added to the school drive over half-term and, as at present, the drive will be completely closed to all traffic from 08:30 to 09:05 and from 14:45 to 15:10 each day. Access into school along the drive for vehicles will be via intercom to reception and it will no longer be possible to enter the drive to drop-off pupils.

### **Extra-Curricular**

School is always about more than just what happens in the classroom. We have high academic standards but we are also determined to challenge and develop our students in and out of the classroom.

From September, we are launching a whole-school initiative to significantly expand our extra-curricular offer. Extra-curricular provision will be held every Wednesday after-school from 3-4pm and will include a range of activities from across school for pupils in all year groups. We will be providing further information on this exciting development and the specific arrangements next half-term.

### **Presentation.**

On the theme of challenge, we are having a huge push on the basics next half-term, starting with the quality of presentation. The emphasis will be on pupils taking pride in the work they have completed and raising standards across the school.

You can support us by making sure your child is properly equipped for learning at the start of the day and we will be increasing our regular tutor checks.

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish you and your family a pleasant and restful half-term.

**Mr G Langston-Jones**  
**Headteacher**

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